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**NEWS RELEASE**

**BURNSVILLE BOY SCOUT LEADER CONVICTED OF  
CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Peter Robert Stibal, II, age 46 of Burnsville, has been convicted today by a Dakota County Jury of two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree and two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree relating to the sexual molestation of one child on four occasions while he served as a Boy Scout leader of Troop 650 in Burnsville in which the victim was participating. These offenses occurred between 2003-2005 while the victim was 13-15 years old (he is now 21 years old). The jury deliberated for approximately four hours before returning its verdict after a trial lasting seven days.

In addition to the charges which Stibal was convicted of today, he has been charged with three counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree involving three other boy scouts who were between the ages of 11-14 at the time the offenses were alleged to have occurred. All three of these cases will be pursued separately in the coming months. Additionally, Stibal also faces six counts of Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors (commonly called child pornography) which will be pursued in a separate prosecution.

Judge Edward Lynch ordered Stibal to be taken into custody immediately following the jury's verdict. Prior to sentencing, an additional court hearing will occur during which the state will present evidence pertaining to its request to seek an upward departure from Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines in this case. This hearing will be held in front of Judge Lynch, as Mr. Stibal has waived his right to a jury decision pertaining to this issue. Following the completion of this hearing and a ruling by Judge Lynch, Stibal's sentencing will be scheduled.

The facts pertaining to this conviction relate to counts I-IV (victim 1) in the amended complaint. The charges relating to victims 2, 3 and 4 are also contained in the amended criminal complaint. (The amended complaint is available at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch>.) A mug shot may be viewed at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/InmateSearch> while in custody.

Backstrom commented: "We are pleased with the jury's verdict today and wish to commend the young man who was victimized in this case for his courage in coming forward which has enabled us to bring Mr. Stibal to justice."

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.